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receiving from said computing device a noise-like output signal; and
additively applying the noise-like output signal to the document.

Please add new claims as follows:

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33. The method of claim 22 in which the photo identification document includes printed text, and the multi-bit data corresponds to at least a part of said printed text.

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34. The method of claim 22 wherein the multi-bit data comprises an index into a registry containing additional information.

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35. The method of claim 22 in which the photo identification document includes printed text, and the multi-bit data is useful in cooperation with at least part of said printed text to verify authenticity of the document.

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36. A plastic document produced in accordance with claim 22.

37. A driver's license produced in accordance with the method of claim 22.

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38. The method of claim 22 wherein some regions of the document are not steganographically encoded.

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39. The method of claim 22 wherein the encoding slightly changes a visible image on the document to encode the multi-bit data therein, the changes being adjusted in accordance with local characteristics of the visible image so as to avoid impairing the aesthetics thereof.

²⁵ 40. The method of claim ¹⁸ 22 in which each bit of the multi-bit data is encoded at plural locations across the document, but the encoding of each said bit takes different forms at different locations.

²⁶ 41. The method of claim ¹⁹ 22 in which the encoding includes texturing a surface micro-topology of the document to encode the plural binary bits therein.

²⁷ 42. The method of claim ¹⁹ 22, further characterized by encoding a calibration signal in the photo, said calibration signal aiding the later decoding of the multi-bit data.

²⁸ 43. The method of claim ²¹ 42 in which the calibration signal is not apparent to human observers of the document.

²⁹ 44. The method of claim ¹⁹ 22 in which said encoding encompasses regions of the document distinct from any text or photo thereon.

³⁰ 45. The photo identification document of claim ¹ 18 in which the steganographic encoding spans some, but not all, of the document.

³¹ 46. The photo identification document of claim ¹ 18 in which the steganographic encoding encompasses regions of the document distinct from any text or image thereon.

³² 47. The photo identification document of claim ¹ 18 in which the encoding comprises slight changes to a visible image, the changes being tailored in accordance with local characteristics of the image so as to minimize impairing the aesthetics thereof.

³³ 48. The photo identification document of claim ¹ 18 in which each bit of the multi-bit data is encoded in plural locations across the document, but the encoding thereof is different at different locations.